(b) There already exist clear-cut instructions on the subject; hence no further instructions are required.

Pre-condition on return of the pledged gold ornaments by Portugal

1877. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Portugal have put a Pre-condition to return the pledged gold ornaments of Goans to "Banco National Ultramarinho" to that of return of "Evacuee Property" of Portuguese Nationals in Goa;

(b) if so, what is the stand of Government in this regard;

(c) what is the current "Evacuee Property" in the custody of Goa Government and the total property taken in Possession by Government after liberation of Goa in 1961; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the fraud whereby this property has been criminally pilfered by certain individuals, in absence of any claiment to such property by changing "records of rights" and subsequently acquired by the Goa Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Negotiations are continuing between India and Portugal for the return of the pledged gold ornaments to India. The stand of he Govt. of India is that there can be no linkage with other issues.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the concerned State Government.

Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute

1878. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute over Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid still remains unresolved depsite Government's declaration to solve the same within a period of fifteen days; and

(b) if so, a what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The Government has not made any such declaration. Recently, the Central Government has constituted a Committee comprising Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Union Finance Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Union Railway Minister and Shri Mukhtar Anis, Health Minister of Government of Uttar Pradesh to hold consultations with the various groups to find an amicable solution to the dispute. It is the considered view of the Government that this issue can be resolved in a spirit of mutual accommodation by building national consensus which is essential for preserving the emotional unity of the country.

Hazardous condition of DTC Buses

1879. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the DTC buses especially the private buses under DTC operation are running in a very dilapidated and hazardous condition with broken foot-boards, seats, door handles, rods and bars, dangerous for safe travel of commuters;

(b) if so, whether any sruvey about the raod-worthiness and suitability for their operation under DTC has been conducted; if so, when and with what results; and

(c) what specific steps are being taken to ensure proper maintenance of those buses?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) All buses, including private buses associated with DTC, are allowed to ply only when they possess the fitness certificates issued by the Transport Authorities of the Union Territory. The operations of private buses under DTC are also monitored by the DTC independently or jointly with traffic police. One of the tasks of this checking machinery is to verify the conditions of the buses.

DTC will set up a special moitoring group to look into the fitness of all vehicles under DTC operation in Union Territory of Delhi.

Facilities to Languages incluced in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

1880. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the privileges or facilities for the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) what is the number of languages recognised as Regional languages in India alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) As per Constitution of India there no are no special privileges or facilities which accrue to the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, from time to time certain administrative benefits are being allowed to the various languages included in the Eighth Schedule, as per statement (*See* below).

(b) The Constitution of India does not provide a clear definition of 'Regional Languages'. Articles 345—347 empower the particular State to adopt any language in 'Use' in a particular State or a part thereto. The Article 351 simply identifies the languages in the Eighth Schedule as 'Languages of India'.

Statement

Administrative Benefits Accruing to the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule

(i) The Chief Minister's Confernce (August, 1961) had recommended that at the secondary stage, facilities for instructions through the mother-tongue should be available ordinarily in the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule, and that facilities for recognition of a language as the additional official language where its speakers exceed 60% of the population, should ordinarily be given to the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule.

(ii) The Government Resolution on Languages (18th January, 1968) which was adopted by both the Houses of Parliament, provides that concerted efforts should be made for the full development of all the languages specified in the Eighth Schedule alongwith Hindi and that a programme for the coordinated development of these languages should be prepared and implemented by the Government of India in collaboration with the State Governments. Also, these